

incredible accomplishments of one of the world's most dynamic nations. I know I speak for many Members of Congress and the American people in extending our wishes for the continued strength and success of the Republic of Turkey.

Over the past seventy-eight years, Turkey has emerged as the secular and modern democracy that Kemal Ataturk envisioned in 1923. Turkey has proven that democracy and Islam are compatible concepts and that freedom and tolerance are universal ideals that should be embraced by all peace-loving nations. As Turkish President Sezer said in a speech commemorating the foundation of the Republic of Turkey on Sunday, "The Republic which was founded as a result of Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's foresight after our nation won its War of Independence is an idea of enlightenment and modernization."

As America faces her toughest test both domestically and internationally since World War II, it is reassuring to know that we have the unconditional and unequivocal support of the Republic of Turkey in our counter-terrorism efforts. Turkey's support and sympathy for the American people following the September 11th attacks are testament to the strength of our nations relations and our common commitment to democracy and freedom. As Turkey celebrates her national day, it is important for the United States to recommit to strengthening our strategic partnership with our NATO ally.

As Co-Chairman of the Caucus on U.S. Turkish Relations and Turkish Americans, I believe that we would be remiss if we did not mention the significant contributions of the Turkish American community to our nation. This growing and increasingly important American community has enjoyed unparalleled success at every level of American society and in every profession. As American ambassadors of Turkish culture and history, they are without a doubt the Republic of Turkey's greatest asset in the United States and have enriched America.

Mr. Speaker, as the people of the Republic of Turkey celebrate their nation's seventy-eighth anniversary, I know that they will continue to build on the political, economic, and cultural success envisioned by one of the twentieth century's greatest leaders, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Again, I congratulate the government and people of the Republic of Turkey as they celebrate the founding of their nation.

#### FUNDING FOR THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU RECORDS PRESERVATION ACT

### HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Treasury-Postal Appropriations Bill, H.R. 2590, includes funding to implement the Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act of 2000. The Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act was cosponsored by Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD and Representative J.C. WATTS. I was privileged to manage the legislation on the floor of the House last year.

This important Act requires the Archivist of the United States to preserve the records of

the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, commonly known as the "Freedmen's Bureau," so that these records can be maintained for future generations. It further requires the Archivist to work with Howard University and other institutions to index the records so that they will be more easily accessible.

The Freedmen's Bureau, which was established in 1865, accumulated a treasure trove of records concerning newly emancipated African-Americans. These records contain information on marriages, births, deaths, labor contracts, Government rations and back-pay records, and indentured contracts for minors. The records are, in many instances, a key source of information to American families tracing their heritage. They are also a vital source of information for historians and students.

The Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act has special relevance for Howard University. The fact that both the Freedmen's Bureau and Howard University grew out of the same impulse to remediate the wrongs of slavery at the end of the Civil War linked the two institutions together at their birth. The fact that General Oliver Otis Howard served both as the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau and as the third president of the University that bears his name adds additional strength to the link. Therefore, Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD and I were honored to join many others in a ceremony at Howard University on February 27, 2001, to commemorate enactment of this important legislation.

With the support of Congress, the National Archives will employ microfilming technology to preserve the invaluable Freedmen's Bureau records, and Howard University will develop indexing strategies to provide their widest accessibility to scholars, genealogists, and the general public. Through this partnership, the Act's goals of ensuring preservation and promoting access can and will be achieved.

#### IN HONOR OF THE CONTINUING SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE UNITS ACTIVATED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution honoring the continuing service and commitment of the members of the National Guard and Reserve units activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In the days following September 11th, it was the National Guard and Reserve who were present on our streets and in our skies. They were present in our airports and on our waterways. They were deploying overseas in support of active duty units. This is not the first time we have seen these heroes in action. They are our associates and neighbors, our friends and relatives. And yet to many of us, their presence means so much more now than it did before.

We must honor the modern day Minuteman, for as our citizen-soldiers stand watch over us, they remind us that long before the phrase

"Homeland Security" was crafted, they were here to preserve liberty on the home front. They were there to support our Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Air Force. And they are still there, supporting our nation in this time of danger.

This war against terrorism may be lengthy and difficult, and we may at times feel less than fully secure, but I stand here today to tell you that I rest easier with the knowledge that the National Guard is on the job. We owe the men and women who have left their families and jobs to heed this call a great deal, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our National Guard and Reserve. Let us not allow a single Guard or Reserve member to join in this conflict, without knowing that the House of Representatives, and more importantly a grateful nation, holds them in the highest esteem. Let us pass this resolution now and give our heroes even greater strength to draw on in the difficult days ahead.

#### REMEMBRANCE OF GERALD SOLOMON

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York, Mr. SWEENEY, for leading this special order. I rise tonight to commemorate the life and career of Gerald B.H. Solomon.

Gerry Solomon was well known as a tough-talking advocate for his Congressional district. But as a former Marine, he was perhaps the House's biggest advocate for veterans during his 20 years in Congress. As the ranking member on the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Solomon worked tirelessly on behalf of veterans and veterans' benefits, including beneficiary travel for veterans going to and from VA hospitals. Solomon was also successful in efforts to elevate the Veterans Administration to a cabinet-level department. This work won him wide praise from veterans groups.

AMVETS National Commander Joseph W. Lipowski called Solomon "one of our foremost advocates in Congress." In 1989, Solomon was presented with the AMVETS Silver Helmet Award. The award, which is a silver replica of the World War II GI helmet, has come to be known as the "Veterans Oscar."

It is fitting that Solomon was laid to rest with military honors in Saratoga National Cemetery. From his key position on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Solomon was the driving force behind the creation of the cemetery and helped secure \$1.45 million to buy the land for the cemetery. Solomon loved the unique place in history held by Saratoga, as it was the turning point in the American Revolution.

In addition to serving as ranking member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Solomon was Chair of the powerful Rules Committee. As the first Republican Chairman in four decades, Solomon used this chairmanship to promote the interests of New York.

Public service was clearly Solomon's life. Coming from a family full of firefighters and policemen, I would be remiss if I failed to note that Solomon also served for years as a volunteer firefighter in his home town of Glen Falls, New York.